

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
June 28, 2006**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos county Fire Department) thanked Gene Darling, who is retiring from LANL, for his many years of service to emergency management and response, and to fire preparedness at LANL. Gene was a pivotal participant in the responses to the Dome Fire and the Cerro Grande Fire, and has been instrumental in the implementation of upgrades to the fire management and response capabilities for the Los Alamos region.

Doug also announced that the Los Alamos County Council has extended the ban on personal use of fireworks. As part of this, Doug repeated that he is pleased that there have been only a couple of human-caused wildfires reported in the Los Alamos region during 2006. This is attributed to the intensive level of public awareness notifications that have been disseminated by local agencies. Finally, Doug announced that the public fireworks display and related festivities will be conducted in White Rock on the Fourth of July starting at 4 PM.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) reported that Bandelier has instituted partial closures of the backcountry in the southwestern portion of the Monument.

Gary Kemp (Bandelier National Monument) announced that a small lightning-caused fire on the Monument was extinguished yesterday. Gary and Marla also observed that the recent rainfall in the Los Alamos region has resulted in less than one-half inch of precipitation.

Randy Balice (Emergency Response Office) reported on the results of fire modeling that was conducted for the recent Bonito Fire, which was about one-quarter of an acre when it was discovered and extinguished. The model assumes that there had been no suppression of the Bonito Fire. Under these conditions, the results suggest that the fire would have progressed to the northeast and would have burned up to 120 acres by nightfall.

Dave Isackson (Santa Fe National Forest) announced that all restrictions that are currently in place will be evaluated after the Fourth of July.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its June 2006 Outlook that drought continues in the Southwest with most areas in severe or extreme drought. Many locations in the Southwest are experiencing the driest winter and spring on record. Experts predict increased chances of warmer-than-average temperatures and equal chances of precipitation through December. Therefore, the drought is likely to persist or intensify over most of the Southwest. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, July 12, at the EOC (TA-69, Building 33) in the Fire TAC Room (124). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.